(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move will bring some transparency and how it will function; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) In a meeting with the State Ministers for Rural Development/Panchayati Raj held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 27th September, 2005, in the context of NREG Act, 2005, it was decided that an Advisory Group of Secretaries of Rural Development be set up to frame the guidelines for National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Accordingly, an Advisory Group comprising State Rural Development/ Panchayati Raj Secretaries from 10 selected States namely Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Rural Development, Government of India.

(c) and (d) Three meetings of the Advisory Group have been held on 7th October, 18th October and 22nd November, 2005 wherein the draft guidelines have been thoroughly discussed. The Ministry of Rural Development has also held wide discussions with eminent persons and non-governmental organisations with a view to bringing transparency in the guidelines for the implementation of NREG Act. The measures for bringing in transparency as provided in the Act have been emphasized in the draft guidelines. These include participation of Gram Sabha in planning for works, social audit by Gram Sabha, monitoring and evaluation system at State and Central level, grievance redressal mechanism, display of muster rolls on the Notice Boards of implementing agencies and applicability of right to information to every aspect of NREG Act.

Plans to have Rapid Deployment Force to protect Indian interests

*315. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seas surrounding India are gaining strategic importance with global focus shifting to Indian Ocean and Indian defence planners

have mooted idea of having a Rapid Deployment Force to protect Indian interests;

(b) whether concept framed by Integrated Defence Staff comprising all three services, stresses on quick movement of troops, light and heavy weapons and logistical support to an area of operation;

(c) whether all chiefs of services have examined this proposal and finally taken its decision; and

(d) if so, what are the details of scheme prepared and by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the increased strategic importance of seas surrounding India, an idea was mooted by the Indian Navy some time ago, to set up a force comprising troops of all the three services, which can be deployed quickly to an area of operation. The concept is in a nascent stage and the proposal has not taken concrete shape so far.

Pension to widows of freedom fighters

*316. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many widows of freedom fighters in the country are not getting pension;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of proposals received from Punjab Government for giving pension to the widows of freedom fighters; and

(d) the number of proposals cleared so far and number of widows are getting freedom pension in Punjab presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Cases for transfer of dependent family pension to widows do not come to Government of India. The procedure for transfer of family pension in the name of eligible dependents (widow/widower, unmarried and